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*CIVIL WORKS*

# ENVIRONMENTAL DESK REFERENCE

PREPARED BY THE

INSTITUTE FOR WATER RESOURCES  
POLICY AND SPECIAL STUDIES DIVISION

For the

POLICY REVIEW AND ANALYSIS DIVISION  
DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL WORKS  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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**U.S. Army Institute for Water Resources  
Policy and Special Studies Programs**

*The Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources (CEWRC-IWR) is part of the Water Resources Support Center in Alexandria Virginia. It was created in 1969 to analyze and anticipate changing water resources management conditions, and to develop planning methods and analytical tools to address economic, social, institutional, and environmental needs in water resources planning and policy. Since its inception, IWR has been a leader in the development of tools and strategies to plan and execute Corps water resources planning.*

*IWR's program emphasizes planning concepts for use by Corps field offices. Initially, this work relied heavily on the experience of highly respected planners and theorists, gained in the many river basin and multiple purpose studies undertaken in the 1960s. As these concepts matured and became a routine part of Corps planning, the emphasis shifted to developing improved methods for conducting economic, social, environmental, and institutional analyses. These methods were essential to implementation of the Water Resources Council's (WRC) Principles and Standards (P&S) and later, Principles and Guidelines (P&G) for water resources planning, which required a multi-objective analysis of tradeoffs among national and regional economic development, environmental quality, and social effects.*

*Increasingly over the years, IWR has also responded to Corps program development needs by studying policy issues resulting from changes in national objectives and priorities. In addition to directly supporting Corps needs, IWR has established an analytic and strategic competence through the direction of such efforts as the National Drought Management Study, National Waterways Studies, the National Wetlands Mitigation Banking Study, the Federal Infrastructure Strategy, and as a lead participant in the development of policy and procedures for environmental planning and management.*

*Many of these forward-looking policy and strategic studies were accomplished by the Policy and Special Studies Division. The mission of the Division is to support the Director of Civil Works by assessing and evaluating changing national water resources and related public works infrastructure management needs as they affect Corps Civil Works missions, policies, practices, legislative mandates, and executive directives.*

*The Division supports the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Works [OASA(CW)] and the Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) in analyzing current policy issues, and conducting special studies of national and international significance. The Division's work encompasses the following thematic areas:*

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## **PREFACE**

This document is intended to serve as a desk top reference on environmental statutes and environmental executive policy for Corps of Engineers Civil Works personnel. It contains summary profiles of environmental laws, and full text of a number of environmental executive orders. The information in this document is for reference purposes, and is not intended as a substitute for HQUSACE policy or implementation guidance, nor is this reference intended to replace the advice of Corps counsel. Implementation of the laws in the Civil Works program may be affected by changes in policy, and by amendments to the laws. Federal case law may also determine how the laws are interpreted and influence policy development and implementation. Users should check the latest HQUSACE guidance for details regarding Corps policy on implementing and complying with these statutes. Users should also consult Corps counsel regarding assistance in applying legislative information in light of the context of the project, circumstances, or action that defines their need for this information.

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## **Acknowledgments**

This document was developed by the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) at the direction of the Directorate of Civil Works, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Project Manager is Lynn R. Martin of IWR's Policy and Special Studies Division, headed by Eugene Stakhiv, Chief. The Director of IWR is Kyle Schilling.

Headquarters oversight was provided by William Klesch, Policy Review and Analysis Division, and David Sanford, Chief, HQ Policy Review and Analysis Division provided overall guidance and encouragement for the effort.

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